Service Conditions of the Employees of Prasar Bharati

†2114. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology recommended for attractive salary package to all the employees of Prasar Bharati by expressing its concern on delay in deciding of service conditions for the employees of all categories of the corporation;

(b) if so, the details of the action Government have taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The committee recommended *inter-alia* that the Ministry should offer attractive benefits to all category of employees of AIR and Doordarshan which would compensate them for loss of status and other perks that were available to them as government employee.

(b) and (c) The main intention behind the placement of government employees at the disposal of Prasar Bharati *w.e.f.* 1.4.2000 on demand deputation basis is to facilitate the smooth functioning of Prasar Bharati and to allow it to exercise control and supervision on employees. These employees are still government servants and no benefit which they would have received as government employees have been withdrawn from these employees.

Pending cases in Guwahati High Court

2115. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN.
SHRI MATILAL SARKAR:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in different High Courts of the country for more than two years;

(b) the number of cases pending for more than two years in Guwahati High Court;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) the pending cases in Guwahati High Court relating to Tripura;

(d) the steps Government are contemplating to minimise the number of pending cases;

(e) whether Government have received any memorandum to establish a bench of Guwahati High Court at Dibrugarh; and

(f) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) As per available information, 25,35,943 cases are pending in different High Courts of the country for more than two years.

(b) and (c) 14,586 cases were pending for more than two years in Guwahati High Court as on 31.12.2001 and 4272 cases were pending in Guwahati High Court relating to Tripura as on 31.12.2001.

(d) For efficiently dealing with arrears of pending cases in High Courts, the optimum strength of the judges in each High Court is reviewed triennially by Government of India, in consultation with the constitutional functionaries in the States concerned and the Chief Justice of India. One such Triennial Review was held in October 2003. They assessed that an additional 94 posts of High Court judges would be required out of which 8 posts would be for Guwahati High Court.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Publication of Information about Contesting Candidates

2116. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRASEKAR REDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether assets, criminal records and educational qualifications of the candidates for Assembly elections would be made public and printed in newspapers;

(b) whether people can object, if any, wrong information is declared by a candidate; and